

# Norton Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

### THE YEAR 1896.

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Area, in statute acres	..	..	..	..	..	10,315
Population enumerated 1891	..	..	..	..	..	8,044
„ estimated 1896	..	..	..	..	..	10,079
Name of Medical Officer of Health	..	..	ARTHUR K. GALE.			
Date of Appointment, March, 1893 (with sanction of the Local Government Board).						

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# ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1896.

The vital statistics for the year are as follows:—

	Per 1000	Vital Statistics.
Birth rate ... ..	28·7	
Death rate ... ..	12·6	
Rate of infant deaths under 1 year, per 1000 births ...	128·0	
Death rate from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases ... ..	2·1	

The general death rate compares favourably with the rates of previous years. Notes on Statistics.

The Zymotic death rate is rather higher than usual.

The following deaths have been registered from Deaths from Infectious diseases:— Infectious Disease.

Scarlatina ... ..	6
Diphtheria ... ..	1
Erysipelas ... ..	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	9
Measles ... ..	1

The following cases of Infectious disease have been notified during the year:— Infectious Diseases Notified.

Scarlatina ... ..	156
Diphtheria ... ..	10
Erysipelas ... ..	9
Enteric Fever ... ..	1

Total 176

Scarlatina.

The following table shows the number of cases of Scarlatina notified during each month of the year :—

January	...	...	...	...	4
February	...	...	...	...	6
March	...	...	...	...	2
April ...	...	...	...	...	5
May ...	...	...	...	...	0
June ...	...	...	...	...	10
July ...	...	...	...	...	27
August	...	...	...	...	22
September	...	...	...	...	13
October	...	...	...	...	30
November	..	...	...	...	28
December	...	...	...	...	9
					<hr/>
Total					156

The seventeen cases notified during the first five months of the year were with one exception resident in Meersbrook or the upper part of Derbyshire Lane: two families alone accounting for nine attacks. From the middle of May until the beginning of the last week in June no fresh case was notified. During the last week in June and the first week in July twenty-five cases in twelve separate households at Meersbrook, Norton Lees, Upper Derbyshire Lane, Bole Hill, Backmoor and Woodseats, were notified. From this point to the end of the year cases occurred at Hemsworth, one at Little Norton, one at Bradway Bank, otherwise the disease was limited to those portions of the district attacked during the first fortnight of the epidemic. Of these twenty-five cases, the majority were in the neighbourhood of Derbyshire Lane Board School, and it was found that one of them had been attending that school after a slight illness, the true nature of which was only discovered when the development of fresh symptoms induced her parents to call in a medical man. The exclusion of this case from school did not appear to have much effect in preventing further attacks among the

children attending, and I had good reason to suppose that there had been other cases similar to the one I have narrated. As the time for breaking-up was near, I advised the clerk of the School Board to commence the holidays at once. The school was closed forthwith on July 5th, and remained closed until September 7th. A little later there were an unusual number of attacks among children attending Norton Free School, and here again I advised the Trustees to close the school as soon as possible. This school was closed on July 23rd, and remained closed until September 7th. Up to the end of October school attendance did not appear to exert much influence in producing fresh attacks, but during the last week in October and the beginning of November a number of children attending Woodseats Infants' School were attacked with the disease. An interview with the head mistress, and inspection of the school register, led to the detection of two unrecognized cases, and also gave rise to a strong suspicion that other such cases existed. In this instance I advised the Council to take action under Section 88 of the Education Code. The school was immediately closed (November 5th) and remained closed until after the Christmas holidays. From July onward the disease was epidemic, not only in your district but in the county generally, and in the adjoining city of Sheffield. As far as your district is concerned, this is certainly the most extensive epidemic of Scarlatina that has taken place for many years, and probably this has been the experience in other parts of the country. In my own practice, I have during this epidemic met with an unusual number of mild cases in which the symptoms were ill defined and the difficulties of forming an accurate diagnosis unusual. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that parents among the working classes did not recognize the disease in some instances, and in those cases I have referred to earlier in my report. I felt it would be a harsh measure to advise the Council to prosecute parents for non notification, as I was convinced that the omission arose



from genuine ignorance. I have no doubt in my own mind that these unrecognized cases were the chief factor concerned in the spread of the epidemic. Of course many instances of culpable negligence, not amounting to actual contravention of the existing law, came to my knowledge, and it would, I think, be as well if sanitary authorities were allowed to adopt during epidemic times a more stringent code of regulations than those contained in the present Acts of Parliament. During the course of the epidemic the Council issued, at my suggestion, a handbill drawing attention to the precautions which should be adopted in dealing with the disease, as well as the provisions of the law bearing on the subject. This was left at every house and posted in the infected area. This handbill was, I believe, of great service in securing notification. (A copy is appended.)

During the course of the epidemic the question of undertaking the disinfection of infected houses was discussed by the Council. In the absence of an apparatus for disinfecting clothing and bedding by heat, I did not feel justified in advising the Council to undertake this, thinking that inefficient disinfection would give rise to a sense of false security. The project of providing and maintaining a steam-disinfector was contemplated, but in view of the great expense and the fact that such an apparatus would probably be provided in a short time at the District Hospital the idea was abandoned.

Whooping  
Cough.

Whooping Cough was very prevalent during the early months of the year, causing nine deaths in young children from pulmonary complications.

Diphtheria

The ten cases of Diphtheria occurred at intervals during the year and in different parts of the district, in no case did the disease spread beyond the family first attacked. The one death registered from this disease was that of a young child, the fatal result being caused by laryngeal complications.

Under a recent order of the County Council your district has been included in the North-East Derbyshire Hospital District.

Isolation  
Hospital.

On account of the issue of the report of the Royal Commission, a good deal of attention has been recently devoted to the question of Vaccination. During the past year Dr. Reece, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board, drew attention to the large number of certificates of insusceptibility to Vaccination given in the Union of which your district is a part. As the Local Government Board exercise no control over the efficiency of private Vaccination, I should like to draw their attention to the fact that in this district a large number of children present only one small vaccine cicatrix. The number of children with this inefficient protection is I believe on the increase, and must in time result in the production of a population highly susceptible to the ravages of Small-pox. In the event of legislation on this subject, I trust that provision will be made to ensure the efficiency of Vaccination, whether public or private. Should conscientious objection ever be accepted as a legal excuse, I would suggest that a system of registration might be devised by means of which all sanitary authorities would be furnished with a complete list of the unvaccinated residents in their district.

Vaccination.

In my last Annual Report I gave a short summary of your Surveyor's report, and recommendations for remedying the nuisances arising from the main sewer in Derbyshire Lane. Before taking definite action the Council obtained the opinion of Mr. J. Aird Murray, C.E., and as he practically agreed with Mr. Sampson, immediate steps were taken to make the suggested alterations in the structure of the manholes and to provide a flushing tank. The work has now been carried out, and will I believe prove satisfactory.

Drainage.

A storm water overflow into the Meersbrook has been provided, near the junction of the main sewer with that of the city of Sheffield.

The Council have adopted a scheme for dealing with the sewage of a portion of Totley by precipitation. The precipitating tanks are to be placed on land at Totley Brook, near the Midland Railway.

The completion of Rushdale Road has enabled the Council to obtain an outlet for the sewage on the Carfield Estate, which previously emptied into the Meersbrook. A contract has been let to form a short connecting sewer between the Carfield sewer and the Rushdale Road sewer, which in turn is connected with the Norton main drain.

Ashpits.

A reference to the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's department will show that a number of nuisances with regard to ashpits have been dealt with. In most of these cases it was found that privy ashpits constructed before a Sanitary Authority existed in your district were too deep and contained water, so that they could not be properly emptied. Notices were served requiring them to be filled up.

Scavenging.

For the purpose of scavenging, the district is divided into two parts; in the Norton special drainage area the emptying of ashpits is undertaken by the Council, and for this purpose they employ a contractor at a fixed annual sum, chargeable to the special drainage rate. The contractor is required to empty all ashpits and privies before 12 o'clock mid-day. This work is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector, to whom all notices requiring the emptying of ashpits are sent. Notices are posted on the ashpit doors requesting occupiers not to empty slops, vegetable or animal refuse into them. In the rest of the district the scavenging is carried out by the property owners, under Section 26 of the "Public Health Amendment Act 1890." The Council have recently obtained more extensive powers in dealing with this matter. Many of the newer houses are furnished with water closets. The question of obtaining powers to insist on the provision of water closets, when possible, in new houses is now under the consideration of the Council.



In several instances where the supply was defective the owner has been compelled to lay on the Sheffield Company's water.

Water  
Supply.

The Council have given the necessary guarantee to the Sheffield Water Company to obtain the extension of their main to Totley Bents. This district has been ill-supplied with water since the Dore and Chinley Railway tunnel has been made.

The Council have now under consideration a scheme for the extension of the Sheffield Water Company's mains to Bole Hill, Norton, Backmoor and Hemsworth.

Early in the year the Council adopted part III. of the "Public Health Amendment Act 1890," so far as it concerns Rural Sanitary Authorities.

Extended  
Powers of  
Council.

On account of the large number of new houses erected and in course of erection in the lower part of Norton parish, the Council decided to apply to the Local Government Board for more extended powers, and on July 30th an enquiry was held at Woodseats by Mr. Edward Pearse Burd, on behalf of the Local Government Board.

As a result of that enquiry, the Local Government Board signified their willingness to confer the following urban powers upon the Council:—

Under the "Public Health Act 1875," Sections 25, 44, 47, 112, 113, 114, 115, 149, 153, 155, 160.

Under the "Public Health Amendment Act 1890," Sections 22, 24, 26, 27, 34, 43.

Under the "Public Health Act 1875" (for Norton Special Drainage District only), Section 161.

In addition to these powers already granted, the Council are applying for further powers under the "Public Health Act and the Private Streets Act 1892."

During the year 12 Ordinary and 14 Special Meetings of the Council have been held.

Appended is a summary of the work done in the Nuisance Inspector's department during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. K. GALE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Norton Woodseats,

March 3rd, 1897.

REPORT OF THE WORK DONE IN THE NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1896:—

	Dwelling-houses Unfit for habitation.	Cow Sheds.	Ashpits and Privies.	Deposit of Refuse and Manure	House Drainage.			Water Supply.	Animals improperly kept.	Other Nuisances.
					Defective Traps.	No Disconnection.	Other Faults.			
Informal Notices served by Inspector .. .. )	2	2	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
Legal Notices by Authority .. .. )	..	1	34	..	22	16	6	5	3	2
Nuisances Abated after Notice .. .. )	2	3	35	1	24	16	6	5	3	2

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	..	..	..	..	2
Do. do. Condemned as Unfit for use	..	..	..	..	2

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	..	..	..	5
Schools do. do. do.	..	..	..	1

K2 3. Table of DEATHS during the Year 1896 in the NORTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according  
 (A) to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE,													
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	(i)	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
NORTON & BEAUCHIEF	{ 106	32	20	2	—	27	25	Under 5	6	1	1	8	5	1	11	1	12	10	2	20	52
								5 upwds.		1										27	54
DORE & TOTLEY.....	{ 21	5	1	—	1	9	5	Under 5				1				1	3	1	2	5	6
								5 upwds.												8	15
TOTALS .....	125	37	21	2	1	36	30	Under 5	6	1	1	9	5				11			25	58
								5 upwds.			1				1	2	15	11	4	35	69

K2 11. Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1896 in the NORTON RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to (B) Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health				
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	FEVERS		Erysipelas.
							Enteric or Typhoid.		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)					
NORTON AND BEAU-CHIEF .....	5576	8324	240	Under 5	61	1			1
				5 upwds.	94	9	1	8	
DORE AND TOTLEY ..	2468	1755	49	Under 5					
				5 upwds.	1				
TOTALS .....	8044	10,079	289	Under 5	61	1			1
				5 upwds.	95	9	1	8	

AREA and POPULATION of the District or Division to which this Return relates.									
AREA IN ACRES, 10,315.					POPULATION (1891), 8,044.				
ESTIMATED TO MIDDLE OF 1896, 10,079.									
DEATH RATES	{	GENERAL .. .. .				12.6	{	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1896.	
		INFANTS (under one year of age) .. .. .				128.0		per 1,000 Births Registered.	